

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03821 271830Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 /117 W
-----053088 280155Z /73

R 271817Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5148
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 03821

USEEC

GENEVA ALSO FOR MTN, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O.22652:GDS
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN, EEC
SUBJECT: EC POLICY TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE IN MTN

REF: BRUSSELS 2908

1. EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH
STATE TRADING COUNTRIES LOUIS KAWAN CALLED IN MISSION
OFFICERS FEBRUARY 27 TO INDICATE THAT, FOLLOWING FURTHER
DISCUSSIONS IN ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE MEETING ON
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FEBRUARY 24, EC IS READY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ITS
APPROACH TO EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE MTN. HE SAID
HE WILL INFORM OTHER MAJOR MTN PARTICIPANTS OF EC
POSITION IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. KAWAN OPENED BY SAYING THAT THE EC WILL SUPPORT U.S.
REQUESTS ON BUSINESS FACILITATION. HE ASKED TO BE

INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS TO PRECISELY WHAT THE U.S. WOULD BE SEEKING. ON EAST EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS NON-TARIFF MEASURE CODES, KAWAN STATED THAT THE EC WAS UNSURE OF WHAT ADVANTAGES U.S. SAW HERE AND WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER INFORMATION.

3. ON THE MAIN QUESTION, KAWAN STATED THAT THE COMMISSION NOW HAD MEMBER STATE APPROVAL TO GO AHEAD WITH SEEKING SECTORAL IMPORT COMMITMENTS (SICS) FROM EAST EUROPEANS. HE SAID THAT THE EC HAD IN MIND SEVERAL BROAD COMMODITY CATEGORIES SUCH AS FOOTWEAR, TEXTILES, FURNITURE AND CERAMICS. SEVERAL CATEGORIES (HE MENTIONED ONLY HAND-LOOMED FABRICS) WOULD BE CHOSEN BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. FOR EACH OF THESE, THE EC WILL APPROACH INDIVIDUAL EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND ASK THEM TO INDICATE THEIR IMPORT REQUIREMENTS, WITH SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR GROWTH, OVER A GIVEN PERIOD OF TIME. UNLIKE EC AGRICULTURAL REQUESTS, THESE REQUESTS WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL GATT MEMBER COUNTRIES, NOT JUST EC.

4. KAWAN INDICATED THAT U.S. REPRESENTATIONS IN MEMBER STATES CAPITALS HAD MET WITH SOME SUCCESS AND THAT DECISION TO SEEK GLOBAL, RATHER THAN EC, COMMITMENTS WAS IN PART A RESULT. MOREOVER, SEVERAL MEMBER STATES HAD BEEN UNWILLING TO AUTHORIZE THE

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EC TO MAKE QUANTITATIVE REQUESTS OF THE EAST EUROPEANS INITIALLY. INSTEAD, AS NOTED ABOVE, EAST EUROPEANS WILL BE ASKED TO MAKE KNOWN HOW MUCH THEY EXPECT TO IMPORT.

5. KAWAN STATED THAT THE PRECISE FORM OF THE COMMUNITY APPROACH HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. ONE THING THEY MIGHT DO WOULD BE TO APPROACH THE EAST EUROPEANS DIRECTLY, WITH A COPY OF THEIR APPROACH SENT TO THE GATT SECRETARIAT. HE SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE EC APPROACH ON AGRICULTURE AND THAT ON INDUSTRY WERENOW ON A DIFFERENT BASIS BUT THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE AGRICULTURAL REQUESTS.

6. KAWAN STATED THAT THE EC WAS HOPEFUL THE U.S. WOULD NOT OPPOSE ITS APPROACH. HE ASKED FOR AN INDICATION OF U.S. VIEWS. HINTON

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